

Livingston County

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Human Services
Collaborative Body
Livingston County, Michigan

2021

I sincerely hope you, your friends, and your family are well. As we collectively witness the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our focus is problem-solving and figuring out how to best support each other.

Our community continues to come together to meet tragedy with thoughtful humanity. I am proud of the dedication and perseverance that we embody as we take care of those we serve, each other, our families, and our community. While the needs and challenges of our county's residents have never been greater, every day we see the positive impact on our community citizens, as individuals, businesses and organizations invest in providing services to change the futures of those in need.

Although no one ever signed up for this, wielding the power of community, we remain steadfastly dedicated to each other. We are on the right path. I am proud and thankful for our unshaken system of support for members of our community no matter the circumstances. We remain unswerving in our dedication to one another. These challenges have served to uncover the caring and compassion our community has in plentiful reserves.

For this and all that you do, I thank you all!
Anita Gibson

Abilities Alliance
Foster, Adoption, &
Kinship Services
Homeless
Continuum of Care
Transportation Coalition
Funding Partners
Community Needs
Mental Health Awareness
Substance Use Disorders
Hunger Council

In partnership with:
Livingston Leadership
Council on Aging
&
Great Start Livingston

HSCB MISSION

Ensuring a system of support for members of our community

HSCB VALUES

- We believe the needs of children, adults, and families drive our planning and services.
- We believe that collaboration means shared stewardship of community resources for the common good of Livingston County.
- We believe that collaboration requires broad community representation.
- We believe the HSCB is responsible for developing continuums of service from prevention to treatment.
- We believe the HSCB should ensure that community members needing services from multiple agencies receive services as efficiently and effectively as possible by creating systems of care.
- We believe that the HSCB should provide a caring community for Livingston County residents by supporting each other's work.

Stabilizing Housing

The Homeless Continuum of Care Committee works to stabilize housing.

This year in Livingston County:

- \$477,005 was used to stabilize existing homes for 397 households through Rent Assistance.
- \$138,676 was used to keep the heat and the lights on in 580 households.
- \$362,396 was used to provide temporary shelter for 922 households.

The importance of eviction diversion cannot be overstated. Keeping people housed is homelessness prevention. It actually costs less to keep someone housed than to help them out of homelessness.

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program:

- From March 15 - October 1, 2021
- 228 households
- \$1,777,695 committed funds to keep people housed
- \$297,634 committed for utility assistance



Livingston County
Homeless Continuum of Care Committee

Community Events

- 301 Individuals Impacted on April 17 at Community Connect on the Go
- 900+ Participants at the Backpack and Connect for Kids Event on August 12, 2021
- 75 People attended the Overdose Awareness Day Event on August 31, 2021
- 28 shirts sold, \$1,220 raised, 1,182 people engaged on Facebook throughout the month as part of Homeless Awareness Month (November 2021)



tackling **HUNGER** together

The Livingston County Hunger Council ensures no one goes hungry in our community by maintaining a Food Response System. 2021 Program highlights include:

- **9,119** meals and snacks were provided at 6 locations during Summer Lunch Bunch which supports children and families during the summer.
- A total of **2,857** seniors were served weekend meals by Meals on Wheels.
- **41** Food distribution sites, available throughout the county, have distributed **2.6 million** Gleaners' meals.
- **2,619 pounds** of fresh produce were grown in a local community garden and **9** fresh produce carts were spread across Livingston County.
- Mission Nutrition Livingston served **2,822 families** with **197,771 pounds of food!**
- The Hunger Council revised its vision and created a strategic plan that will lead us through 2025! The Steering Committee of 13 agencies is proud of this collaborative work and is looking forward to the future.



The Facts!

The **Community Needs Assessment Workgroup** supported St. Joseph Mercy Livingston with their Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan and updated three facts sheets:

Foster Parenting
Sexual Assault
Intimate Partner Violence

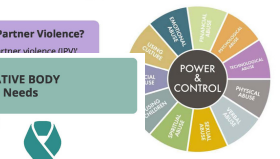
Livingston County HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY Health and Human Service Needs FACT SHEET Intimate Partner Violence 2021

What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Livingston County HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY Health and Human Service Needs FACT SHEET Sexual Assault 2021

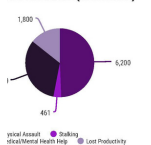
What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is forcing or manipulating



Cost/Impact on Society
According to a CDC Report, the costs of sexual assault against women alone in 2003 exceeded \$5.8 billion.

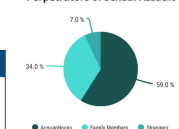
for Survivors (in Millions)



What is Consent?
Consent is to make a mutual, voluntary, informed decision between clear minded, of age participants before any and every sexual act.

- It is not consent:
 - If the person seems distant, closed off, or unsure
 - If the person is feeling pressured
 - If the person says "I guess so", "I don't care", or is vague
 - If the person is under the age of 16 (Michigan)

Perpetrators of Sexual Assault



Every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY Health and Human Service Needs FACT SHEET

Foster Parenting in Livingston County November 2021

What is Foster Care?
Children come into foster care due to abuse or neglect. The goal of foster care is to reunify and strengthen families. Foster parents provide safe, nurturing, patient, and supportive home environments for children while safety concerns are addressed with their family. The goal is to maintain youth in their existing school district; therefore, homes are needed in each school district in Livingston County. The length of a foster care case can be a year or more.

Children of all ages are placed in foster care, from birth to age 18. There is a voluntary program for older youth called "Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC)" to remain in care until age 21.

What if reunification is not possible?
When efforts to reunify children with their birth parents are unsuccessful, the court makes these children eligible for adoption. Children may be adopted by their relatives, their foster parents, or by other families who wish to adopt.

Who are Foster Parents?
Foster parents are adults who provide a temporary home for children whose legal parents are unable to care for them. All foster parents are expected to become licensed. Foster parents may include:

- Relatives – also referred to as kinship placement
- Licensed unrelated adults
- Fictive kin – unrelated adults who have a close pre-existing relationship with the child.

What is the need in Livingston County for foster homes?
As of year-end 2020-2021, foster care data for Livingston County includes:

- 72 licensed foster homes
- 30 new homes licensed
- 115 children in foster care
- 22 children adopted
- 63% of children were placed with relatives or a parent

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The Mental Health Awareness Workgroup created a **wellness tool kits** and updated the pocket **Mental Health Awareness Cards**. Check them out:

- [Kind + Well Ness Newsletter](#)
- [Mental Health Awareness Cards](#)

The Foster care, Adoption and Kinship care Services Workgroup (FAKS) helped to recruit **30 newly licensed homes for foster care**. They have also supported existing families with appreciation gift baskets delivered to each family and provided foster parents with multiple online training opportunities locally and regionally.

Wraparound services, provided by the Funding Partners Workgroup, were provided to **80 Families** and **79% of the children involved improved their CAFAS scores** by a statistically significant amount.

ADDRESSING TRAUMA

The Trauma-Informed Workgroup helped providers and families implement care with Trauma in mind.

- 5 trauma assessments and consultations were completed
- 20 people were trained in Trauma
- The team is made up of staff from CMH, LESA, LACASA, and parent representatives



Supporting Transportation Service

The Transportation Coalition continues to work on the Master Plan and non-motorized initiatives. A total of **98,808 riders rode 995,615 miles** despite some suspended services during 2020/2021!

The Transportation Coalition created two newsletters which reached more than 500+ people. To sign up for the newsletter and stay up to date, click [here](#).

Creating an Informed Community through Education

- 105 professionals from 36 agencies were trained through the 2021 Funding Partners Core Competency Training Series.
- The Substance Use Disorders Workgroup reached 181 people at 20 community prevention activities and co-hosted trainings with the Funding Partners (Vaping 101 and Meth Awareness). The [Substance Use Provider Directory](#) was also updated in 2021.
- Abilities Alliance Workgroup reached 287 people through partner agency events and an accessible voting presentation.

GREAT START LIVINGSTON

Great Start Livingston continues to support children and families in Livingston County in partnership with our local agencies and community partners.

Great Start Livingston provided many opportunities for children and families to build skills for school and life which includes the development of social/emotional, literacy, cognitive, physical, and learning skills. This included parent workshops, playgroups, parent cafés, a Social and Emotional Resource guide, an updated [Great Start Livingston website](#), and many opportunities to connect with parents through meetings, emails, social media, in-person events and more.

Hoarding Task Force

The Hoarding Task Force had their first Safety Day Clean out in 2021. On August 7, 2021, the Task Force worked with one local senior. The goal was to clean out her house and garage which had become unsafe for her to live in. Two dumpsters were filled throughout the day by the team members, several local volunteers and family members.

There were over **900 participants** at the Backpack and Connect for Kids Event and over **350 children, parents, and community members** who have been a part of workshops, playgroups, trainings, events, and more.



Livingston Leadership Council on Aging

Despite another difficult year, the LLCOA continued to meet and work on behalf of seniors.

Highlights from this year include:

- Completed the Senior Services Directory which has been distributed to over 2,600 people and organizations
- Revised the Senior Centers list and created a subcommittee to look at potential funding opportunities for senior programs



SENIOR SERVICES DIRECTORY

Please note:
This is not a comprehensive guide.
The information provided is low or no
cost resources available to
Livingston County Seniors.

The mission of the Livingston Leadership Council on Aging is to develop a plan and ongoing strategies to meet the needs of the older adult population in Livingston County.

FALL 2021

HSCB MEMBERS

Stephanie Hall,
Area Agency on Aging 1-B

Jennifer Tate,
Department of Health and Human Services

Carol Taggart,
The Arc Livingston

Greg Kellogg,
Livingston Essential Transportation Services

Mike Hubert,
Livingston Educational Service Agency

Honorable Miriam Cavanaugh,
Livingston County Probate Court

Connie Conklin,
Livingston County Community Mental Health

Rachel Gerutta,
Consumer Representative

Chair, Anita Gibson,
Work Skills Corporation

Susan Harding,
Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency

Kathleen Kline-Hudson,
Livingston County Planning Department

Michele Wagner,
Consumer Representative

Brooke Rains,
Child Care Network

Caryn Michalak,
LACASA

Commissioner Jay Gross,
Board of Commissioners

Vice-Chair, Mark Hymes,
Center for Independent Living

Dianne McCormick,
Livingston County Health Department

Michaeline Raczka,
St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital

Angela Parth,
Livingston Family Center

John Furey,
Livingston County Catholic Charities

Anne Rennie,
Livingston County United Way

Danielle Brunk,
CMH Partnership of Southeast Michigan

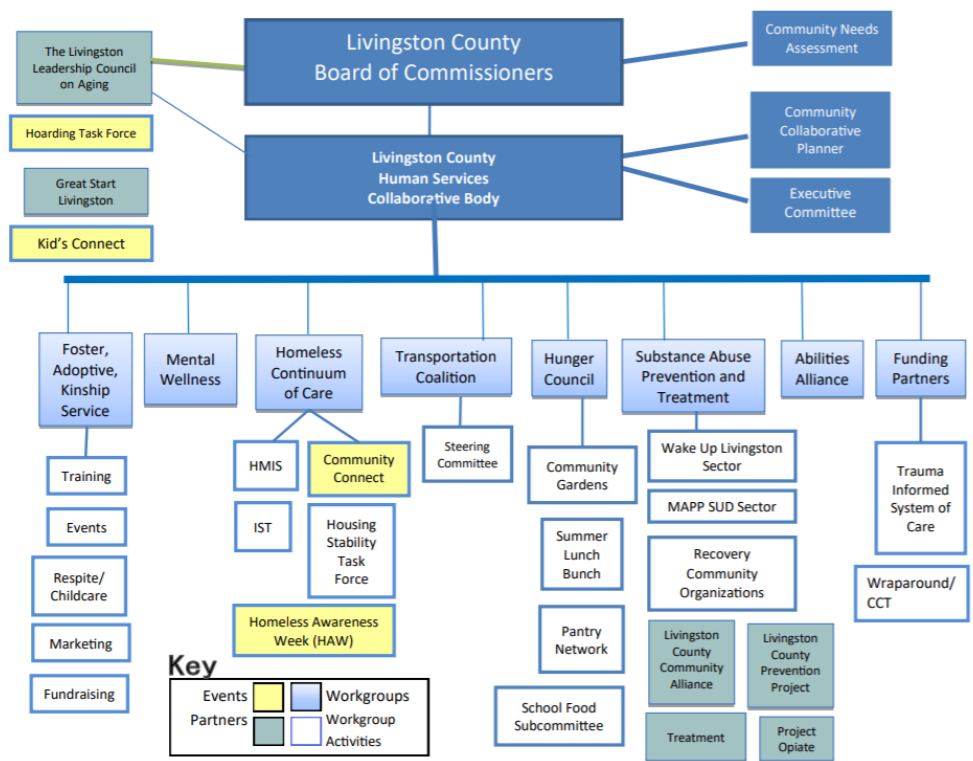
Dawn Awrey,
Michigan Works!

David Reader,
Prosecuting Attorney

Nicole Bartolomucci,
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Gleaners Community Food Bank

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Thank you!

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

